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By Pete Spanos

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United States Congressman Charlie Bass has opened a district office in Newport and will offer constituent services from the 24 Main Street location weekdays, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Bass has four additional offices in the Second Congressional District he represents in Washington – two main offices in Concord and Nashua, and smaller branch offices in Salem and Littleton.

The space is owned by Sullivan County and was leased in recent weeks with the unanimous consent of the county's 13-member House delegation.

County Administrator Greg Chanis said Sullivan County is receiving \$250 per month in rent and that the lease runs until the expiration of Bass' current two-year term.

"We're very pleased that Congressman Bass wanted a satellite office in our area and we're glad to be able to assist," Chanis said.

"We have never done this before and we were certainly aware of the political implications, and my first response was guarded as a result. We probably wouldn't do it if it were a campaign office, but this is a constituent's office and the Congressman serves everybody," said Chanis.

"I'm very pleased that we will now have a permanent office location in the western part of the district for constituents in the Newport area," the Peterborough Republican said. "It's going to be a real benefit to Sullivan County."

The federal budget allotted congressmen for their home offices, Bass said, is shrinking by 15 percent and as a result, the Newport office would run, "a little leaner."

Bass Community Liaison Christopher Collins will manage the new office though still keep his duties out on the road travelling on behalf of the congressman.

"I'm hopeful that it will work," Bass said.

"My staff and I have always made a strong commitment to provide the best service possible to the people of New Hampshire's Second Congressional District. I encourage my constituents to contact me at any of my offices with their questions, comments, or concerns, or if one needs assistance with a federal agency."